

Horticulture Innovation Lab: Trellis Fund

Engaging U.S. graduate students in international development

The Trellis Fund connects organizations in developing countries with U.S. graduate students who have agricultural expertise, generating benefits for both the students and the in-country institutions. Together, they collaborate on short-term projects to address horticultural challenges faced by local farmers.

How it works:

Organizations in developing countries are invited to propose a horticultural project for a \$2,000 grant and specify the type of expert support they seek in a U.S. graduate student. Trellis projects may address issues of horticultural production, pest management, soil fertility, water management, postharvest practices, value addition, nutrition, and marketing.

The Trellis Fund matches the organization to a graduate student with related expertise. Graduate students from the Horticulture Innovation Lab's partner institutions are invited to participate:

- University of California, Davis
- North Carolina State University
- University of Florida
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Selected graduate students work remotely with the organization as consultants on projects for a minimum of 100 hours. Students travel for approximately 2 weeks of in-country work, to gain a better understanding of local situations and execute parts of the project. Travel expenses are covered, and students receive a \$300 fellowship upon completion.

Achievements:

Since 2011, the Horticulture Innovation Lab has completed four rounds of Trellis Fund projects. Results from the first 47 completed projects include:

- 7,396 farmer participants (69% women)
- 219 demonstration plots
- 238 training and extension meetings



PRIDE in Bangladesh worked with Brittany Pierce, a UC Davis graduate student, on a Trellis Fund project about pest management.



In Nepal, Rachel Suits of NC State works with a local graduate student on a field trial with the Ecological Services Centre.



Dan Quinn of UC Davis worked in Uganda on trainings for mango and citrus production.

<http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu>



HORTICULTURE
INNOVATION LAB

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY

UF UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA





Trellis Fund projects, 2016-2017

The Horticulture Innovation Lab selected 9 projects for its fifth round of Trellis projects.

Cambodia

- Training of trainers for curriculum on water management, climate resiliency, and soil quality in school vegetable gardens
- Green Shoots Foundation in partnership with Community-based Integrated Development Organization (CIDO)

Ghana

- Improving tomato production through good agronomic practices
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Crops Research Institute
Ibukun Timothy Ayankojo of the University of Florida

 - Home-based processing and marketing of mango fruits

Methodist University College Ghana (MUCG)
Nicholas Reitz of UC Davis

Kenya

- Improving food production by adopting best pest management methods
- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
Pete Nelson of North Carolina State University

 - Increasing Irish potato productivity through traditional and mobile information extension

Growing Star Agri Ventures
Yao Guan of UC Davis

Nepal

- Extending shelf-life and quality of vegetables through construction of cost-effective storage unit for marketing purpose
- Himalayan Pearl Enterprise (HPE)
Sadikshya Sharma of the University of Florida

 - Integrated nutrient and pest management for improving sustainability of small-holder farming

Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD-Nepal)
Tiare Silvasy of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Uganda

- Fruit fly management information and practice for mangoes
- National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI)
Brad Reil of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

 - Enhancing postharvest handling methods and creation of market linkages for small holder fruit and vegetable farmers

Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project (NIRP)
Karin Albornoz of UC Davis

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